

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00155 031755Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 029825

R 031555Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6008

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0155

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THIRD-TERM CANDIDACY

1. PRESIDENT KRISTJAN ELDJARN YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY FOR THIRD FOUR-YEAR TERM IN OFFICE. HIS CURRENT TERM EXPIRES JULY 31 OF THIS YEAR.

2. THERE IS NO TRADITION OF SERIOUS CHALLENGES TO INCUMBENT ICELANDIC PRESIDENTS. ELDJARN SUCCEEDED HIMSELF IN 1972 WHEN NO OTHER CANDIDATE FILED FOR PRESIDENCY AND SCHEDULED ELECTION WAS CALLED OFF. IN 1968 HE HAD WON LOPSIDED VICTORY OVER CURRENT INDEPENDENCE PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN GUNNAR THORODSSEN.

3. ELDJARN IS RESPECTED AND WELL-LIKED PRESIDENT WHOSE DECISION TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE WILL BE POPULAR ONE, THOUGH COMING AS MILD SURPRISE. OFFICE IS CHIEFLY CEREMONIAL AND NOMINALLY NON-POLITICAL. HOWEVER, IN 1968, LAST TIME PRESIDENCY WAS CONTESTED, CAMPAIGN WAS BITTER, NAME-CALLING ONE WITH LINES CLEARLY, IF UNOFFICIALLY, DRAWN BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES. IF NOTHING ELSE, ELDJARN'S DECISION WILL PRESUMABLY SPARE COUNTRY POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR EXPERIENCE -- ON TOP OF UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER TROUBLES -- THIS SUMMER.

IRVING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, ELECTION CANDIDATES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
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Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE
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